

## THE CONDITIONAL

**Conditional sentences** have two parts: **if-clause** and the **main clause**. In the sentence “if the weather is nice, we will go out”, “if the weather is nice” is **the if-clause**, and “we will go out” is **the main clause**.

When **the if-clause** begins the sentence, use a comma to separate the two clauses as in the example aforementioned. However, when it finishes the sentence there is no need for a comma.

**Example:** If the weather is nice, we will go out. / We will go out if the weather is nice.

In English there are four basic **conditional structures**:

### I. THE ZERO CONDITIONAL

The zero conditional (**also called conditional type 0**) is a structure used for talking about scientific facts and general truths, the time is now or always and the situation is real and possible.

<b>IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)</b>	<b>MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)</b>
If + simple present If you <b>heat</b> ice,	Simple present it <b>melts</b> .
<b>MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)</b>	<b>IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)</b>
Simple present Plants <b>die</b>	If + simple present if they <b>don't get</b> enough water.

**Examples:**

- If you **freeze** water, it **becomes** a solid.
- Phosphorus **burns** if you **expose** it to air.

### II. THE FIRST CONDITIONAL

The first conditional (**also called conditional type 1**) is a structure used for talking about possibilities in the present or in the future, and the situation is real. They refer to a possible condition and its probable result.

<b>IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)</b>	<b>MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)</b>
If + simple present If it <b>is</b> sunny,	Simple future we <b>will go</b> to the park.
<b>MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)</b>	<b>IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)</b>
Simple future We <b>will miss</b> the train	If + simple present if you <b>don't hurry</b> .

**Examples:**

- If you **cook** the supper, I **will wash** the dishes.
- Peter **will buy** a new car if he **gets** his raise.

**N.B:**

“if” can be replaced by **unless** which means “if ... not”.

- Unless he **hurries up** (if he **doesn't hurry up**), he **will arrive** late.
- They **won't lose** some weight unless they **exercise** regularly (if they **don't exercise** regularly.)

**III. THE SECOND CONDITIONAL**

The second conditional (**also called conditional type 2**) is a structure used for talking about unreal situations in the present or in the future, the time is now or any time. They are not based on fact, and they refer to an unlikely or hypothetical condition and its probable result.

IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)	MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)
If + simple past If I <b>had</b> two million Dollars,	Present conditional I <b>would buy</b> a big house.
MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)	IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)
Present conditional You <b>wouldn't be</b> so tired	If + simple past if you <b>went</b> to bed earlier.

**Examples:**

- If Mary **spoke** Japanese, she **would move** to Japan.
- What **would** you **do** if you **won** the lottery?

**Exception:**

In the second conditional, the form “**was**” is not considered grammatically correct. In written English or in testing situations, you should always use “**were**”. However, in every day conversations “**was**” is often used.

**Examples:**

- If I **were** you, I **would give up** smoking.
- She **would buy** a beautiful car if she **were** rich.

**IV. THE THIRD CONDITIONAL**

The third conditional (**also called conditional type 3**) is a structure used for talking about unreal situations in the past, and they are contrary to reality. The facts are opposite of what is expressed; they refer to an unreal past condition and its probable past result.

IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)	MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)
If + past perfect If he <b>had had</b> more money,	Perfect conditional he <b>would have travelled</b> to America.
MAIN CLAUSE (RESULT)	IF-CLAUSE (CONDITION)
Perfect conditional You <b>would have passed</b> the exam	If + past perfect if you <b>had worked</b> harder.

**Examples:**

- If you **had driven** more carefully, you **would not have had** an accident.
- What city **would** you **have chosen** if you **had decided** to move to the United States?

**Exercise 01:** say whether the sentences are in conditional type 0, 1, 2 or 3.

1. If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we will have a picnic
2. If you had come to class every day, you would have had no troubles.
3. They will tell him the truth if he comes.
4. If I were you, I would not do that.
5. They won't come unless you invite them.
6. If you mix red and blue, you get purple.

**Exercise 02:** put the verbs in brackets in the correct form.

1. I think you were very rude to her; I would apologize if I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) you.
2. Diana would have been here earlier if she \_\_\_\_\_ (not miss) the train.
3. You get water if you \_\_\_\_\_ (mix) hydrogen and oxygen.
4. What will you \_\_\_\_\_ (do) if you \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) the match?
5. You wouldn't have lost your job if you \_\_\_\_\_ (work) seriously.
6. If he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) the president, he would help the poor.

**Exercise 03:** choose the correct verb to fill in the blanks.

1. I would give everyone £100 if I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) the Queen of England.  
a)was  
b)were
2. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (start) the engine, you hear that strange sound.  
a)would start  
b)start
3. If you work hard, you \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the prize.  
a)will win  
b)would win
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ (believe) you if you hadn't lied to me before.  
a)would have believed  
b)would believed
5. The fuse blows if you \_\_\_\_\_ (press) that button.  
a)pressed  
b)press
6. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) Portuguese, I would have less trouble in Brazil.  
a)spoke  
b)speak

**THE CORRECTION OF EXERCISES**

**Exercise 01:** say whether the sentences are in conditional type 0, 1, 2 or 3.

1. If it doesn't rain tomorrow, we will have a picnic. (**conditional type 1**)
2. If you had come to class every day, you would have had no troubles. (**conditional type 3**)
3. They will tell him the truth if he comes. (**conditional type 1**)
4. If I were you, I would not do that. (**conditional type 2**)
5. They won't come unless you invite them. (**conditional type 1**)
6. If you mix red and blue, you get purple. (**conditional type 0**)

**Exercise 02:** put the verbs in brackets in the correct form.

1. I think you were very rude to her; I would apologize if I **were** you.
2. Diana would have been here earlier if she **hadn't missed** the train.
3. You get water if you **mix** hydrogen and oxygen.
4. What will you **do** if you **lose** the match?
5. You wouldn't have lost your job if you **had worked** seriously.
6. If he **were** the president, he would help the poor.

**Exercise 03:** choose the correct verb to fill in the blanks.

1. I would give everyone £100 if I **were** the Queen of England.  
a)was                                        **b)were**
2. If you **start** the engine, you hear that strange sound.  
a)would start                            **b)start**
3. If you work hard, you **will win** the prize.  
**a)will win**                                b)would win
4. I **would have believed** you if you hadn't lied to me before.  
**a)would have believed**    b)would believed
5. The fuse blows if you press that button.  
a)pressed                                 **b) press**
6. If I **spoke** Portuguese, I would have less trouble in Brazil.  
**a)spoke**                                  b) speak